N. Yk. 4th March 1847.

My dear friend

The Evening before last, I rec.d your very kind letter, & intended fully to have replied to it yesterday, but, in the Morning I had to go out, & in the Evg. neither body nor Mind were adequate to writing – Your former letter reached me, in due course, & has never been forgotten for a single day, but I waited to see a Gentleman to whom I was, in some sort, pledged to go to Engl.d on business, & who, oddly enough, arrived in Town on the very Morng. that your last came to hand – The truth is that my Necessities, rather than my inclination, induced me to listen to proposals for undertaking a pecuniary arrangement, in London, on behalf of a Corporation here; & had the matter been carried out as was proposed, I should have had to leave without delay – However, the last advices from England do not encourage any present attempts to raise Money there, & hence the matter is indefinitely postponed, & I may, or may not be disposed to go hereafter – It would be but a temporary Affair, at best, attended with more of anxiety than profit, & I should prefer a *permanent* Engagement here, if I knew how or where to obtain one – One thing is clear that I must do something, & that shortly, & if I can get no living here, I must even try a second, & much worse emigration – for to this land I brought property enough to live upon, whereas I shall leave it – a beggar!
" Not in debt, however, by God's blessing, & therefore with nothing on my (commercial) Conscience – But enough of this. & I only tell it you to explain what is passing thro' my mind, in view of my reduced circumstances & present position –

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disgraceful
"it was necessary to make *some* atonement for the "herbaceous" part of the Report

From a passage in your letter, (not the last) I have been rather expecting to see you, tho' that circumstance wd. not have so long delayed my reply, could I have felt certain as to my own movements - And now as to Carices & Salices for the Pocket Boty., I can only say that apart from the satisfaction I might derive from the work, in the Abstract it wd. be matter of great gratification to me to render you this small assistance, but I do not see that I am in a position to undertake the Job - Since the fire, I have no longer the necessary books - I have Kunth, to be sure, as to Carex but besides that he is very often wrong as to our Species, his Chars. wd. not answer for a Synoptical work. Thanks to your Dups., & other large Contributions in this particular genus, I have now a good Set of Specimens, but not all that I shd. want, & especially not the (10 or a Doz.) new ones which Dew. & Kze. have been elaborating in the last few years - Nor could I get at the Chars. (from my books) of the old ones, in some instances, (particularly those of Dew.) which are spread over many numbers of Sill. Jour. & only referr'd to, numerically, in Torrey's Mon. Cyp. which I still have - As to Salix I am still worse off - I had a capital Set of them, as I paid much attention to them, at B. Sally in old times, & used to mark the trees to be sure of the right leaves - Since the fire, I have recd. very few indeed - scarcely any - Indeed, it wd. seem as tho' my contributors were all afraid of them - As to the names & Syny. of the Species, I relied very much on Barratt as Hook. has done in Flor. Bor. Am. tho' I never thought Barratt's Authority of any value, beyond what resulted from his own personal observation - Well then, the Sum is this, if I were nearer to you, so that I could look in upon you often for what I needed, I should undertake the Job with pleasure, upon every principle; but as I am situated, I fear I could neither do justice to it - to you - nor to myself - the last being the smallest consideration - As to your very kind proposal of my making you a visit, which I should prefer to every thing else, it is too costly for my purse, just now, to go backwards & forwards ($10 pr. trip, the mere boat) & altho' I am entirely my own Man just now, yet it might not be wise to absent myself for a long time from the City, whilst I continue to cherish the hope (now a very slight one) of getting some Bread-&-cheese Engagement here - You see I make no account of quartering myself upon you, for the required time, as I well know that I should be welcome & other circumstances permitting, should be willing to act upon that persuasion - It is odd enough that only last week, I tried to find the pistillate fls. of Cocculus, being interested in the Structure - I have the plant from Fla. Chap. Ala. Buck. & N.C. Curt. but all ♂. my Brother has it from 2 other localities, but likewise staminate! From 5 places, we have not a female plant between us!! I have often noticed how much more rare the pistille. plants of the allied Menisperae. are than the staminate - Indeed, of M. lyoni, I never even saw the ♀ fls. nor the fruit! - Strange to say in the midst of much anxiety, & but poor health (the consequence of it) my love for our plants is greatly increased, & having now none dependent upon me, were my means as comfortable as heretofore, I should take intense pleasure in getting together a new Herb. & what books I need, at whatever cost — Indeed, tho' my position looks hopeless enough, I am not willing to abandon this last hold upon the comforts of life — I now & then have dreams of ordering Paper & Cabinets to be made &c. — Nay I have even a plan in my head, as to the latter, which I mean to submit to you as guarding against fire! "A burnt child &c" I fear you will have too little time for your new Book but as Chapman recently wrote in regard to you — "you are a prolific fellow —" I have within the past week got a sight of our friend Torrey's N.Y. Fl. — I grieve to see (entre nous) that he has not done himself justice — What is the price of Emerson's Trees of Mass. of which you write such great things?

It was most kind in you to devote so much of your valuable time in copying for me the determinations of the Oregon plants — there seem to be some capital things among them tho' not new — "I wish I may get them" — Perhaps Brother George will kindly copy out the remainder for me when at hand, if you are too busy — I made no minute of the freight of Mr. Curtis Box, & of course have no charge against you as Mr. Oakes — I suppose the Bundle arrived —

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You shall look up a Review for — Emerson's book.